

Sedalia Weekly Conservator.

VOL. 1.

SEDALIA, MISSOURI, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1903.

NO. 18

HOW TO INCREASE THE ATTENDANCE IN OUR Church Services

The following is a paper read before the District Conference which held forth in Sweet Springs, Mo., by Rev. A. H. Higgs, pastor at Marshall, Mo.

This is like the question, 'How ought one to preach to keep some from going to sleep?' There are so many different occasions for slackness of attendance that it seems to me that a fixed rule is almost impossible. However, there must be some remedies somewhere, and if properly applied, they will tend in that direction to bring many to the house of the Lord.

Now what ought we to do to create more of an interest in our public worship, on each successive Lord's day, at the regular hours for preaching. First, the key to the situation is held by the pastor. He is lord and master, but must be a good general; second, his official men and all of his boards must be in line, ready at the sound of the bugle to march, fight as the call may require. There are his co-helps and auxiliaries in this work, and that part of the membership which is always willing and ready to do what is justly, properly demanded of them for the promotion of the Master's Spiritual as well as His Visible kingdom.

Having the throttle in his hand, he must see that every part of the machinery is cleaned and oiled i. e. his daily life must be construed to be, by actual observation, that of a true servant of God, representing the loving Christ.

With his personal attention to the Prayer Meeting, he often makes a friend for the Sabbath's preaching. His care and watchfulness over the Young People's Organizations such as the Epworth League, Christian Endeavor, B. Y. P. U. or whatever name it may be, will always bring some one to church on Sunday. To fill the church on the Sabbath, the minister must be a man with the spirit of Christ, given to kindness to the ill-favored as well as the most prosperous. A kind word, a kind look, on the street, in the store, in the Sunday School may and will lead many to His house. He must be seasoned with love, in all of his transactions. It cost but little in grace but the returns are large and may cause many to rise up and bless you at a time, when you least expect it.

In one of our charges where we preached not long since, an old individual stopped, after the service, came forward, took our hand and said, 'I like to come to your church' we answering, asked, 'why so?' He replying said, 'You make so welcome that I am always helped when I hear you preach'. These words gave us more real comfort than the collection, because a sinner had been touched.

The preacher, then, to build up his church, must stir up the gifts that lie within him and cause others to be stirred; capture the children and hold the strangers.

Again, he must be a good visitor always looking after the old and sick, comforting them with a few words of exhortation. A verse sung now and followed by a prayer and if possible have the family called together will work all towards the filling his church when the hour of preaching is at hand.

If your church is poorly heated (Continued on page 3.)



Rev. B. F. Abbott, pastor of Pitt's Chapel M. E. church, Springfield, Mo., who presented an able paper before the Sedalia Dist. Conference at Sweet Springs, Mo., on, "How to stimulate greater interest in the class meeting," Friday morning.

HOW TO STIMULATE GREATER INTEREST IN THE CLASS MEETING

Without intelligent enthusiasm in our work, we are failures. No important achievement has ever been accomplished without it. If any man lacks inspiration and enthusiasm for his work he had just as well get ready and sing "Hark from the tomb," pronounce the benediction, and quit, as to attempt to proceed without this power.

"Enthusiasm is the secret of power in every work—in business and in professional life. The Banker must sleep with his bank; the teacher must have his school with him upon the high-way; the Lawyer must stand with his client before the court in his own home.

Write: Blessed is the man who has this main spring of power, and uses it, for he shall be successful.

The success of the Methodist Church, and her doctrines, is due, largely, to the enthusiasm of her adherents. We have been the most enthusiastic followers of the Lord Jesus. Others have said, because of our interest in the services of the church that the Methodists are going to heaven by fire. Shouting, Methodist has been frequently used as a name for us.

Methodist people have been accustomed to talking about their religion, praying about it, singing and shouting about; so effective has this been until the protestant denominations have copied a part of the spirit.

The class meetings of the Methodist church have been the source of much of our religious enthusiasm. When the strong arm of the church is weakened, we have need to become alarmed about the success of the church, unless this power is transferred elsewhere in the church.

Here, in the class room, is the place where we talk most about the saving power of Jesus; of the wonderful love of God; of his continued goodness; of our besetments and sinfulness; of our battles and victories; in short, of our experimental religion. Experimental religion is the language of the class room, therefore, the question as to "How to

stimulate a greater interest in the class meeting" narrows down to the question of experimental religion.

You can't stimulate a dead body, you must get some life in your man first and then give him the proper food and stimulation begins. Your man must know that "he has passed from life unto death" or he can't talk about it.

The reason why many people fail to attend class meeting is that they have nothing to talk about. A man can't come from the dancing floor or the card table into the class meeting and speak its language correctly. If we can get the church to accept the Lord Jesus wholly, the question is settled. For this will bring about a religious inspiration and enthusiasm born of the Christian spirit, and men will be eager to associate themselves together to relate the same.

The ship has nothing to fear so long as the water is kept out of it. But, when the water finds its way into the hull there is danger. So it is with the church, its danger lies in not keeping its lines distinct from the world. If the church members are worldly minded, they have no use for the class meeting. Worldliness is a death dagger to our spiritual enthusiasm.

Chas. E. Vincent a Graduate of Geo. R. S. College.

Among the prominent young men of Marshall, Chas. E. Vincent may be considered first. He has lately returned from Chicago, and all are pleased to see him and hear him tell of his travels which is indeed interesting. Mr. Vincent is one of the kind that may be classed with such men as Booker T. Washington.

He sees clearly, that we as young men must get the "get up and go" on us before we can accomplish anything or make a mark in life. He is a graduate of Geo. R. S. College and has also attended school in Dixon, Ill. Long live Mr. Vincent, and may he in his aspiring efforts, at last reach the highest pinnacle with others of his kind.

Our Correspondence

Otterville

Mrs. Geo. Garrett returned to Sedalia Thursday.

Prof. J. M. Jorney of Solesville visited here Friday.

Mr. Walker Hogan and wife visited Mr. Sam Wright Sunday.

Mr. Eugene Finley and daughter came Sun. to visit his sick mother.

Mrs. Isabelle Roulett came Wed. to visit her sister, Mrs. E. Hawkins.

Messrs. Joe Hubbert and Harvey Points of Syracuse are visiting relatives here.

Misses Della Tucker and Maud Hogan visited Miss Mattie Hopkins near Byberry last week.

The rally of the A. M. E's. here was well attended, and a good collection was raised. Quite a number from Mt. Moriah attended. Revs. Sims and Broadus officiating; Rev. Mc Tassal, pastor.

Marshall

Miss Russle B. Walton will leave soon to enter school at Lincoln Institute, Jeff City.

Miss Devolia J. Bell will leave soon for Emporia, Kas., where she will attend school.

Miss Cordell Walton a former teacher in our school will leave to accept of her new position as teacher at Columbia, Mo.

The Pastor and members of the A. M. E. Church gave a reception on Thursday night, Aug. 20. It was largely attended and nicely conducted.

It is but a short time before most of the leading young men and women of our town will leave. They will be greatly missed in Marshall. However, we know that they go aiming to obtain a higher degree in life, hence, we will not court sadness.

The public school of Marshall will open Monday, Sept. 14. So far as is known, only four teachers assigned. Prof. J. H. Kenner, the faithful principal who has been with us for nearly 20 years is in the number. Miss Hawkins, Miss Peray and Prof. I. W. Adams are the other three.

Miami, Mo.

Mrs. Kate Jakes is on the sick list

The Missouri River is rising rapidly again; much drift is afloat.

The 2nd Baptist church will give a picnic on Aug. 29. All are invited

Miami and Marshall will play a game of base ball for a purse of \$5, August 26.

Mr. Walter Philips left Miami Friday for a brief visit. He will visit Chicago, K. C. and St. Louis.

During an electric storm a few days ago lightning struck the Franklin school house, tearing the roof considerably.

The party given by Misses M. Graves and Callie Tillison at the

home of Mrs. L. A. Carter's was well attended.

Robt. King, one of our ladies' men received a broken finger by playing ball with Watts, but he is getting along nicely.

Jakes & Williams, shaves, haircuts and general tonsorial work done. Call and see us, Two doors west of 2nd Baptist church.

Died—Milton, the son of George Thomas in K. C. Saturday, Aug. 15 1903. His remains were brought to Miami for burial Sun. Aug. 19. Rev. Clay of Carrollton officiating.

Malta Bend, Mo.

Miss Martha Fowler is on the sick list

Mr. Miller Neff is on the sick list this week.

Mr. Theo Turk arrived Sunday from Sedalia.

Mr. Sam Fowler is in very poor health this week.

Mr. Pete Kile went to Marshall Thurs. on business.

Miss Amanda Thomas is improving very slowly.

Mr. Geo. Lee was in Marshall on business Saturday.

Mrs. Mary E. Barber visited Sweet Springs Sunday.

Mr. Al. Wilson and nephews came in Sunday from Sedalia.

Mr. Allen Gatewood is buying his house shingled by Mr. Jerry Fowler.

Miss Tolle Fowler from Mt. Leonard was in town on business Monday.

Mr. W. Henderson has rented Mrs. Taylor's house and will move soon.

Mrs. Mattie Anderson and daughter Mabel visited in Mt. Leonard Sunday.

Miss Francis Crutchfield spent Thurs. with Mr. Wm. Turk at his country home

Mrs. W. M. Taylor and family left for K. C. Kas., Friday, their future home.

Mrs. Francis Byman was called from Marshall to see her grandmother who is very ill.

Mr. J. D. Anderson and sister spent Thursday and Friday with their uncle Miller Neff.

Quite a number went fishing Friday and carried dinner, but not many fish were caught.

Mrs. Josie Thomas and cousin, Pleadie Fowler, spent Friday with Martha Turk at her country home.

Mr. Jos Sanders drove over to Sweet Springs Sunday after his family who had been visiting in Sedalia.

Mr. and Mrs. Brent of Blackburn Mo spent Sunday with their parents, Mr. Miller Kile and wife.

Misses Winnie Shanon and Millie Davis drove over to Sweet Springs Sunday and attended conference.

Every body is invited to the Basket-meeting Sunday. Rev. Hamilton of Waverly will conduct the meeting.

Misses Mary and Nora Crutchfield arrived home from Marshall where they have been visiting their brother John.

Mr. Chas. Vincent and Miss Lillian Allen Drove from Marshall Sunday and were the guests of Mrs. F. D. Fowler.

The A. M. E. sewing circle gave an entertainment Saturday night in the yard of Mr. Miller Kile. It was grand and successful.